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### Life at the edge: Benthic invertebrates in high altitude Andean streams

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## *Curriculum vitae*

Raúl Loayza Muro was born on March 7<sup>th</sup> 1975 in Lima, Peru. He spent his childhood in Lima and Palma de Mallorca, Spain. After returning to Peru, he followed lower school at Markham College and then at Winnetka School. Since he was eleven, he lived in Chaclacayo, a town in the country side of Lima, gifted with quietness, hills and sun all year round. The daily view of the lower Andes and clear skies from home arose his interest for nature. Some years later he obtained a Bachelor Degree in Sciences, Major in Biology at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) in Lima. He made his undergraduate thesis at the Department of Biochemistry and at the Institute of Tropical Medicine 'Alexander von Humboldt' (UPCH).



Between January 1999 and May 2000 he spent a research period at the Laboratory of Chemical Ecology at the Universidad de Chile exploring the role of antioxidant and detoxifying enzymes on the tolerance of aphids to cereal secondary metabolites. After returning to Lima, he continued working at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology and Parasitology, but seeking new horizons and trying to pursue a new research line in environmental sciences, which at the moment was not available at UPCH. In 2002 he began his research in ecotoxicity of metals in Amazon freshwater mussels and soon after he expanded to benthic macroinvertebrates in high altitude metal-polluted streams in the Andes. By that moment he became an assistant professor and Head of the Laboratory of Ecotoxicology at the Faculty of Sciences and Philosophy. He did his PhD at the University of Amsterdam between 2009 and 2013. At present, he continues doing research at his laboratory at UPCH exploring the effects of climate change and glacier retreat on the acidification of headwaters and metal mobilization in Andean streams.